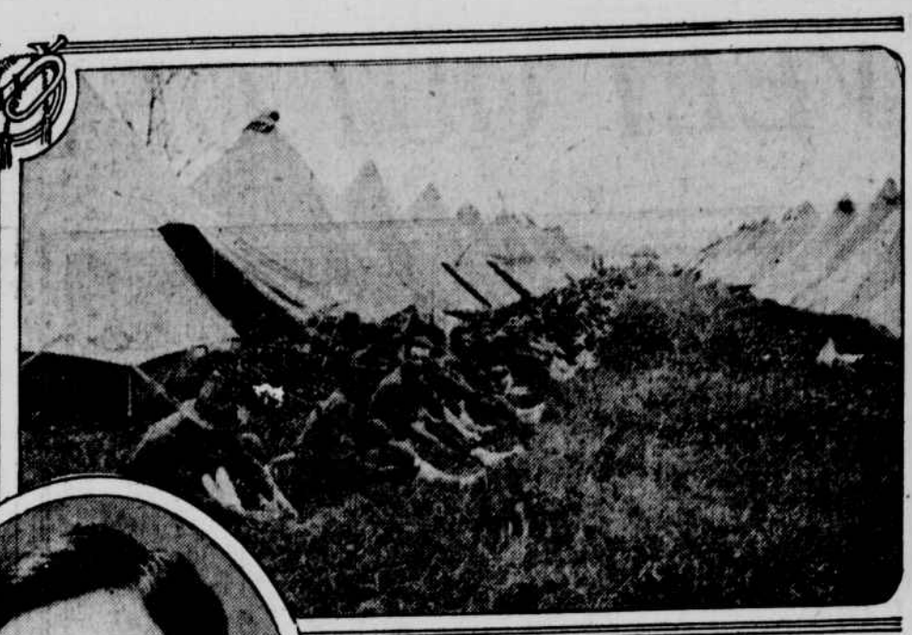
Y. M. C. A. PREPARING TO GO TO FRONT IN CASE OF WAR

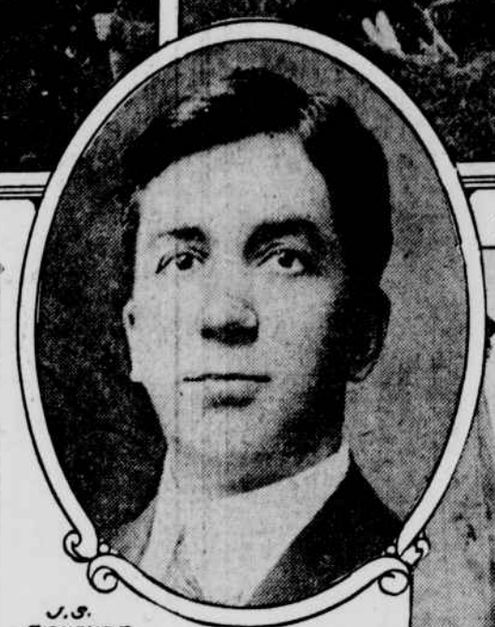
Association Is of Practical Aid in Wartime.

Mission of Keeping Up Spirit of Men in the Field

INTERIOR OF TENT #1, SAN ANTONIO, SHOWING HOW Y.M.C.A. TENTS ARE USED.



LOOKING THEIR FEET OVER AFTER A "HIKE".



J.S. TICHENOR, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND NAVY BRANCH OF THE Y.M.C.A.

H.W. CHAFFEE, SECRETARY WITH FUNSTON'S TROOPS AT VERA CRUZ, SEWING UP RIPS.

INFANTRY IN REVIEW, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS. 1913.

THEY had plotted their firing zones—those chiefs of the great war college in Washington. They had found the ranges for the mighty guns in the harbor; they had taken the elevation of the hills and noted the lay of the cactus strewn plains. Every foot of the rough, precipitous way to Mexico City had been mapped out and the plans for the advance laid. The crack of the sniper's rifle in the night, the fall of an American outpost, and the mighty machinery can be set in motion.

But that is not all. There are men working quietly in a little building in East 28th st. They are laying out a campaign.

These men are secretaries of the army and navy department of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations, and are headed by John S. Tichenor, who has had fifteen years of large and intimate experience with the human side of soldiers and sailors ever since 1902, when he was secretary of the first sailors' Young Men's Christian Association in Brooklyn, until now, when nearly forty army and navy Young Men's Christian Association branches are under his direction and are wonderfully appreciated by a hundred and fifty thousand enlisted men and boys, all the way from New York City to far away Shanghai, China, to the Philippine Islands, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and all over the United States.

And so they are working swiftly and quietly, calling for volunteers to go to the front, that the camps of the American armies may not be utterly abandoned to the influences of evil; that the best trained troops in the world may not lose their fine edge at the touch of the insidious tropics.

When Brigadier General Frederick Funston, now in command at Vera Cruz, left the Philippines a year ago last March he had a word to say for the work Mr. Tichenor is directing. The doughty little warrior, hardened by many a stiff campaign and captor of the elusive Aguinaldo, knew better than any other what had been accomplished among his men. From the headquarters of the District of Luzon, at Manila, he wrote:

Before leaving the Philippine Islands I wish to express my keen appreciation of the work done at the manœuvre camps at Cabanatuan and Sibul Springs. The elaborate plans for the wellbeing and entertainment of the men so ably carried out by you and your assistants were a great factor in making the men contented and in keeping them from spending their evenings in aimless wandering about, or spending their time at the numerous drinking establishments, thereby incapacitating themselves for the hard work required of them. Thanking you most sincerely for your splendid work.

OFFICERS IN GENERAL VALUE THIS CO-OPERATION.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the services of the Y. M. C. A. are wanted in Mexico during the long stifling nights with the troops quietly waiting under arms while mediators talk and diplomatists wrangle.

But General Funston is not alone in his admiration of the work. There are a hundred others.

"I want you to consider Mr. Elder your expeditionary secretary," said Colonel Lejeune, commander of the 1st Advance Base Brigade of the United States Marines, stationed in Brooklyn. "Where I go he goes."

And so at the first sign of trouble when the orders came Mr. Elder went to Vera Cruz, even as he had gone to Santo Domingo, Pensacola and Cuba in previous years, although it is not the practice of the Young Men's Christian Association to send its men to the firing line, as the work is largely confined to the leisure hours of camp life. But so insistent was Colonel Lejeune that Mr. Elder went.

Only last week Colonel Berry, of the 4th Artillery, received his orders to move, and a telegram came winging northward immediately, requesting that a Christian Association man go along.

GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCES AT THEIR SERVICE.

That is why the secretaries in President Wilson's Cabinet and the war chiefs in Washington are in constant communication with the association, offering places on battleships, transports and troop trains to the workers and aiding the movement wherever it can help toward efficiency through its sane provision for the men.

If a time comes when the President is forced to send a great army of volunteers to Mexico the Y. M. C. A. will be ready. With every battalion of men, severed at short notice from all home ties and plunged into an environment where almost every influence has a downward pull, will go an emissary of the Christian Association, a Red Cross worker on the moral and mental side. For the first time a modern army will be permeated by a new spirit. While these soldiers may not fight with the religious fervor of Cromwell's Ironsides, that put to shame the proud minions of the Stuarts, still they will have all the advantages of comradeship with advocates of clean living and of not being forced for recreation to the lower forms of indulgence.

The work of the Y. M. C. A. is comparatively simple, but what it gives to the men ground down by the routine of camp life amounts to priceless luxuries. The great call of the "movies" is sounded and the response is immediate. From twilight to taps the films are thrown on the screen, while the weary troops in thousands give approval such as the golden voice of Caruso and the witching smile of Maude Adams never know. Few can realize what such an entertainment means to those thousands of miles from home in an alien and hostile land. Its value in keeping up the spirits of men is unquestioned, and every experienced general values contentment in the ranks. Motion pictures may mean rapid victory in case of strife in Mexico. Certainly they will play their part as a new factor in war. The greatest work, however, is that of the personal touch of the secretaries with the men and the religious meetings and Bible classes.

The rest of the work seems almost inconsequential, it is so simple. A big tent, capable of accommodating a thousand men, is erected as a social hall. Old magazines and newspapers are kept on file, reams and reams of writing paper furnished to the soldiers and gallons of ice water kept on tap. Here is the life of the camp centred and the canteens are forgotten.

In a detailed report of his field service in the Philippines, one of the secretaries gives an account of the enthusiasm of the soldiers over the work of the Y. M. C. A. He wrote as follows:

The Cabanatuan camp was the first laid out by the military authorities, and we were on the ground at once. At this place we rented a large native theatre on the edge of the camp. The small buildings on either side of the entrance were fitted up as reading and writing rooms, the centrally located ticket office was used for our ice water tanks (it took a thousand pounds of ice a day to keep them cool), while the main building was used at night for entertaining the men. Basketball, baseball and other games were promoted by the secretaries in the afternoon. An average of two thousand men attended the entertainments every evening. The reading, writing and game tables were always occupied. Our first shipment of 4,500 envelopes was exhausted in four days.

At Sibul Springs we had practically the entire camp of 4,000 officers and men from sundown until "taps." This was made possible by our almost perfect location, the long slope extending to the side and back of our building and for hundreds of feet back of our curtain. A quick witted medical officer solved the problem of reading from the back of the screen by using a mirror, and every evening he was at his post translating to the general and other officers who formed his group. The 13th Infantry band played for us every night during the entire programme.

Native water carriers and the military water wagon had it nip and tuck with the two dozen mugs that were often passed so rapidly under the faucets of our ice water barrels that the flow was not shut off for minutes at a time.

"You are putting in altogether too many writing tables," said one of our secretaries, new to the work. He is wondering now how many writing tables it would have taken to accommodate every man who wanted to write a letter home. He also marvelled at the interest in checkers, and wondered how long a table it would take to give every fellow a place to play.

On Sunday we had "Songs in the Dark" and moving pictures of the life of Christ. We wondered if that great mixed crowd would sing. The chief musician transposed our music. At last the test. The familiar song is on the screen, the band is playing and thousands of men are singing "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Song followed song until, under that starlit sky, men were singing who never sang before.

WORKERS WILL GO FORWARD AS NEEDED.

It was for this work that General Funston sent his thanks, and this is the sort of thing that army officers are expecting in Mexico and what will be provided as fast as emergencies arise. Two men are already with the fleet at Vera Cruz and those who have been with the army for the last year at Galveston and Texas City will move to the front. As the work of the association has to do with providing entertainment for the soldiers in their idle hours, there is little of its help needed on the firing line with the advance guards. If a second contingent is moved to Mexico, however, a corps of workers will be dispatched.

The religious side of the Y. M. C. A. is not overemphasized. Dealing with men of many creeds and dispositions, the association does not pretend to cram religion down their throats, although opportunities are provided and the religious motive inspires and the religious atmosphere pervades the whole movement. Much is made of the guiding of the social instinct along the right lines.

SOCIAL INSTINCT MUST FIND OUTLET.

"We do not believe that the soldiers are naturally vicious," says Mr. Tichenor. "They drift into bad places because they are not welcome elsewhere. The pariahs that prey on the encampments are only too ready to receive them when off duty. It is the perfectly natural social instinct that leads them to the company of their fellows, and if there is no good place to go they inevitably go to a bad one. We strive to provide the good one, and the results have proved that a vast majority prefer to stick with us.

"The officers in the army," Mr. Tichenor continued, "realize that we have no axe to grind, and from their point of view we are making better soldiers. That is why we are being invited to follow to Mexico. The Christian association can provide at least one good influence in the evils that trail only too often in the wake of an army. 'Better men, better soldiers' is our motto, and the results of fifteen years of labor have convinced us of the value of the work."

It was in the Spanish-American War that the army and navy department of the Y. M. C. A. was born, and since then it has developed a wonderful field of endeavor. Millions of dollars have been invested in buildings, and its secretaries are found in all the possessions of the United States. The magnificent home given to the sailors and marines of the New York Navy Yard in Brooklyn by Mrs. Finley J. Sheperd, formerly Miss Helen Gould; another in Norfolk, built at a cost of $325,000, the gift of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller; another $325,000 building in Newport, the gift of Mrs. Thomas J. Emery, with every appointment to provide for the wants of the men, are only part of the equipment for the navy alone.

SHORE QUARTERS AND BANKS FOR SAILORS.

Boston and Philadelphia have their homes, and there is a $25,000 bungalow at Olongapo, forty miles from Manila in the Philippines. Temporary quarters are opened for the fleet's stay each winter in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Shanghai, China. Rooms for sailors on shore leave who are not received at first class hotels; savings bank departments to provide a place for the money; lockers in which to place the trinkets that are picked up on foreign shores; restaurants, gymnasiums, social and reading rooms, all contribute to the welfare of these men who are miles away from home, if they have any at all.

It is not easy work that the Y. M. C. A. asks its secretaries to do. Not long ago its Alaskan representative travelled 1,200 miles by dog sledge from the ice fields of Bering Sea to the open port at Valdez, at the head of Prince William Sound. He was commissioned to visit the soldiers in the forts and stations along the way—to see those who keep Alaska's interior in touch with the outside world. His experiences were thrilling as he passed through this desolate land, stopping off now and then at bleak outposts, where a handful of men are detailed and where the awful silence of the snow clad mountains often brings insanity. He came to posts where the travelling libraries given by Mrs. Finley J. Shepard had been read through time and again, and arranged for exchanges.

IT TAKES HARDY MEN TO DO THIS WORK.

"On Thompson Pass," he wrote in describing his trip, "the government telegraph service maintains a station run by three men during the winter months. They are ready to repair the line, which is broken frequently by the severe storms that rage in the mountain passes. Men are not detailed here. Volunteers are asked for. The only part of the station visible from the outside is the roof and chimney. Entrance is through a tunnel of ice and snow. I arrived at this station shortly after noon, when the operator had just returned with two men he had rescued after being lost in the mountains. These men were walking into the interior without food or blankets, expecting to find work in the gold mining camps. If they had not been found by the telegraph operators they would probably have perished and never been heard from. Thus the men are not only doing duty as operators and linemen, but are lifesavers as well."

The secretary was overturned, thrown down the steep sides of mountains and tossed into rushing streams. His sled broke under him before he arrived at Valdez.

But whether the call is from the ice-bound North or the palm-decked South, there are volunteers ready to set out. And if the time comes for war and the national guard marches forth from sheltered firesides into the hard life that is not without viciousness, the men will not be entirely bereft of the good influences they have always felt at home.

CONTUMELY WAS TRIST'S PAY FOR ENDING MEXICAN WAR OF '47

By GURDEN EDWARDS.

THE meetings of the A B C mediators, to begin at Niagara Falls, Ont., Monday, May 18, and the appointment of the American peace delegates to the conference to adjust the difficulties between the United States and Mexico, recall the strange and dramatic circumstances under which the treaty that ended the former clash at arms between the two countries was worked out. The strangest feature of that affair was the censure and disgrace which came to the American representative in the peace negotiations as his reward for participating in them.

The agreement which he obtained and which brought the Mexican War of 1847-'48 to an end with the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo was successfully negotiated by him despite the fact that the first effort for that end had failed and formal deliberations for a settlement had been abruptly broken off. He, as the American peace commissioner, had been officially recalled, peace was despaired of by all concerned and hostilities had been resumed.

Yet, although his work thereafter brought about a prompt peace and obtained for the United States the more important demands made in the first place, when the man who achieved these results single-handed came home it was to find not praise for his work, but censure, even after the successful consummation of his labors through the ratification by both powers of the treaty he drew up.

He was to find, too, that he had been dismissed from the service of the State Department in disgrace for insubordination, that his pay had been stopped, and that an order for his arrest and forcible expulsion from Mexico had been sent by the President to the American military authorities there while he was still conducting his successful negotiations.

The charge of insubordination rested on his action in continuing to treat with the Mexicans after the revocation of his peace commission and his order of recall home, following the refusal of Mexico at first to accede to the terms of settlement he was sent to propose; nor were the sagacity and subsequent success of his action allowed to weigh against his technical insubordination.

His censure and discharge stood, and it was not until twenty-two years later that the government made a measure of reparation for the obloquy cast on him. Then his acts were made the subject of special inquiry and report by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the wisdom and patriotism of his action were attested, and an appropriation was passed to reimburse him to his unpaid salary and expenses.

This strangely treated peace commissioner was Nicholas P. Trist, chief clerk of the Department of State. Following the sweeping victories of the American forces in Mexico, he was appointed by the President to accompany the army on its march to the Mexican capital "to negotiate and conclude a settlement of the existing differences and a lasting treaty of peace."

PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED TREATY.

He carried with him the draft of a proposed treaty furnished by Secretary of State Buchanan. Among its provisions, it called for the cession of all territory north of the Rio Grande in New Mexico and of both Upper and Lower California, together with a number of other mutual exchanges, such as the payment of certain millions of dollars to Mexico by the United States, the amount being dependent upon the extent of the concessions obtained.

When Trist arrived at the Mexican capital he found the question as to what was the duly constituted political authority of the country something of an enigma due to internal strife and intrigue, comparable to the present state of political chaos.

Finally the designation of peace commissioners to represent the Mexican interests was obtained, and then, as in the present situation, an armistice was declared for the peace negotiations. But before even this forward step was achieved friction arose between Trist and General Winfield Scott, in command of the American army, ending in mutual distrust, that finally broke out into a quarrel in which they took to writing letters, calling each other hard names.

SCOTT AND TRIST COME TO UNDERSTANDING.

At length, however, they came to a state of understanding and co-operation with one another, and from August 27 to September 7, 1847, Commissioner Trist engaged in negotiations with the Mexican representatives who had powers similar to his own. Following his instructions from his own government, Trist made as the basis of peace the provisions of the treaty drafted by Buchanan, and in the discussions that followed made what concessions he was empowered to do.

But these labors were to prove vain. His proposals were rejected by the Mexicans, who then made counter proposals, offering much smaller concessions than Trist was authorized to accept, and he would not listen to them. The negotiations were broken off and hostilities resumed.

As soon as the government at Washington heard of this impasse in the negotiations orders were sent to Trist to return at the first safe opportunity to the United States, leaving the commanding general of the American army thenceforth to look after the interests of this country in bringing the war to a close. The complete conquest and subjugation of Mexico seemed then to be the only way in which this could be accomplished, as Trist's recall apparently brought an end to all possibilities of peace through diplomacy.

A DELAYED TRAIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

But a delayed train and the lapse of six days swept Trist into that insubordinate disobedience of his orders out of which grew the seemingly impossible. Upon the receipt of his recall he planned to leave the Mexican capital on December 4, 1847, by special train for Vera Cruz, as Chargé Nelson O'Shaughnessy recently left. But Trist's train was delayed, and the first safe opportunity for his departure did not come until six days later, December 10.

He did not, however, take this opportunity. In those six short days changes had occurred in the situation which led him to determine to disregard his order of recall, strike out boldly on his own, then entirely unauthorized, responsibility, and try to obtain a treaty conforming as closely as possible to the original draft given him by Buchanan.

Out of this disobedience grew, on the one hand, his personal disgrace and censure for insubordination, and, on the other hand, the successful negotiation of the treaty that finally became approved. His action in this has been described as due to "either vanity and naïve audacity or farseeing and lofty patriotism."

The reason for his recall given by President Polk at the time was that nothing further could be accomplished by his remaining, while a further prolongation of his stay might give the Mexicans cause to think the United States was so eager for peace it would accept it on the terms Mexico might propose, and he did not wish the United States to be put in that light.

The reasons for Trist's determination to stay were the earnest pleadings of the peace party in Mexico and of foreign representatives there, and his own realization that unless he took the action he did the outcome would be exactly opposite to the wishes of both nations. Mexico was beaten, and only chaotic internal conditions had prevented the consummation of a peace really desired as the only way to avoid still greater losses; and the United States, although triumphant, also desired immediate peace to avoid being driven to a war of complete conquest. Trist say that his departure would bring about an end to all these wishes.

But this view was not apparent to the Washington administration, and Trist's announcement, therefore, that he had determined to disobey his order of recall came as a shock to the President, who could only see that the mission had failed utterly. It drew from him an outburst of indignant censure of Trist and his motives, aroused chiefly by insinuations on Trist's part that the real purpose of the administration in ordering him to break off negotiations was to go on and carry out a war of conquest.

"He has acted worse than any man in the public employ whom I have ever known," Polk wrote. "His dispatch proves that he is destitute of honor and principle, and that he has proved himself to be a very base man."

OSTENTATIOUS REPUDIATION AND SECRET HOPES.

But however great was the official demonstration of indignation against Trist, no definite action was taken against him for a time. It has been said that behind the ostentatious repudiation of him was the secret hope that he would go ahead and develop a situation out of which a final settlement might come. If such were so, it was a hope that came to be realized.

Following the abandonment of the original peace negotiations, governmental conditions in the Mexican capital fell into even a greater state of chaos than before; but out of the confusion the peace treaty there finally succeeded in erecting an administration. A commission was at once appointed to confer with Trist and reopen negotiations for "a treaty of peace, friendships and limits."

Trist consented to meet with the commission, but on the distinct understanding that any terms he might make were tentative and unauthorized so far as his own government was concerned, and were to have no binding force upon it. There was the possibility, however, should a treaty be agreed upon, of ultimate approbation by the Washington administration.

The Mexican government understood this situation thoroughly and finally agreed after some hesitation to open the negotiations on these equivocal terms.

NEGOTIATIONS AT GUADALOUPE HIDALGO.

The little village of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, a suburb of the capital, was chosen by Trist as the meeting place because of the veneration in which it was held by the people of the country.

Here through a period of six weeks the duly authorized Mexican commissioners of peace and the completely unauthorized American commissioner labored. Their meetings were long and their conferences many, but throughout Trist maintained singlehanded the principles and instructions of his original commission, and finally the Treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo was signed February 2, 1848.

Despite his previous indignation against Trist the President assumed the position that the question of his insubordination was entirely between Trist and his own government; as for the treaty proposed, it came to him, he saw, as a practical opportunity for ending the war on approximately the terms at first demanded, and he communicated it to the Senate with the recommendation that it be ratified.

In the Senate opposition arose. It was based chiefly on the grounds that Trist had been without authority to negotiate it. Webster introduced a resolution for the postponement of any further consideration of the treaty and for the appointment of three commissioners plenipotentiary to go to Mexico and do the whole thing over again, more according to Hoyle.

This would have not only thrown out Trist's accomplishment, but also would have jeopardized all prospects of peace, owing to the unstable conditions in Mexico. But finally practical peace considerations prevailed, and the treaty signed by the recalled, discredited Trist, was adopted, and terminated the Mexican war.

He returned to the United States, therefore, of his own free will, to find, however, humiliation instead of approbation waiting him, in his dismissal in disgrace from the service without pay.

And so he passed out of the situation, to remain unjustified for nearly a generation. But finally, in 1871, the negotiations in which Trist had played so prominent a part, and especially his own actions in them, were taken up for investigation by the Senate Committee, and April 20 of that year, an appropriation was made for his relief in the amount of $14,560.